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UNTIL
1997

1965 FILE B 1822

1366

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

CONFIDENTIAL

B 1821/1

FROM M.L. Tait: Dubai to M.C.S. Weston.

No. 10114/65C

Dated 30 December.

Received 10 January.

SUBJECT: Report on the condition of Zanzibari Arabs in Dubai.

Encloses Copy of:
report.

References and Relevant Papers:
B 1822/1 (1965)
B 1822/2 (1965)

(Outward Action)
Dft) C.P. Scott, UKMIS, Geneva from M.S. Weir 19/1
Sc) H. Phillips: Bahrain 19/1
Sc) H.G. Balfour-Paul: Dubai 19/1
Dft) M.R. Harris: OXFAM from T.F. Brefsky 19/1
Dft) H.G. Balfour-Paul: Dubai from M.C.S. Weston 9/3.

MINUTES

2 drafts submitted.

13/1

U.N. (ECOSOC) Debt (Mr. Mayo)

It might be worth consulting the CRO about the prospects of emigration to Commonwealth countries.

14/1.

If the C.R.O. will not help (as I suspect they will) I think we could at least ask our missions at — (a) I think we could at least ask our Canadian & Australian contacts informally what the prospects are. I shall do so at the next opportunity.

19/1

b.u. noted 3

A) H. Phillips: Bahrain to M.S. Weir (Ads C.P. Scott, UKMIS, Geneva) - 1823 - 28 January.

9/2.

U.N. (ECOSOC) Debt (Mr. Mayo)

(Printing Instructions)
185223

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
10/2/66	5/10/67

B) C.P. Scott, UKMIS Geneva to M.S. Weir – 1824/66 – 10 February

21/2

U.N (Ecosoc) Deft (Mr. Maya)

I spoke to Mr. Christie of the Canadian High Commission today, inviting him to advise us what purpose his capacity as Head of the Tanzanian Office in London. He said there was no bar in principle to the immigration of ex-Zanzibaris into Canada, but that they might well have difficulty in fulfilling the requirements, which are fairly strict. Applicants must be sponsored by residents in Canada, or have ample financial means, or possess certain specified – mostly unusual – skills. The thought the best course for any Zanzibaris in Dubai to take might be to apply to the Canadian Embassy in Beirut.

2. I shall let you know what I learn from Dubai. You might also speak to the Australian High Commission, though I suspect the White Australia policy will debar Arabs as it debars Indians.

4/3

Mr Wharton

Discussed with Mr. Riddle, Australia House. Shares little (if any better) than in Canada. Draft.

7/3

C) M.R. Harris, OXFAM to T.F. Brierley – MRH/DM/4633-8 Jan[illegible]

You may care to see.

10/3

U.N. (Ecosoc) Deft (Mr. Maya)

11/3.

Number of copies.....

Number of copies of enclosures.....

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE

Reference .....

D) H.G. Balfour-Paul, Dubai to M.S. Weir - 10114/66C-19 and
(Ads C.P. Scott, UKMIS, Geneva)

31/3

U.N. (Ecosoc) Debt (Mr. Hays)

1/4

E) UKMIS, Geneva to ~~Arabian Department~~ - U/N - 13 April.

28/4

UNCLASSIFIED

(10114/65C)

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY,
TRUCIAL STATES,
DUBAI.
30 December, 1965.

RECEIVED IN
10 JAN 1966
B 1821/1

Dear Michael,

Please refer to your letter B 1822/1 of 26 November about the condition of Zanzibari Arabs in Dubai.

I am sorry not to have given you the facts on them before now but Mr. Khassiby the Secretary of the Zanzibar Association is proving pretty elusive. Possibly because he feels that he may have over-stated his case, he has not produced the firm statistics required and I have gleaned the contents of the enclosed report from conversations which I have had with Mr. Khassiby and with another Zanzibari, Mr. Amour Barwani. I have sent a copy of this report direct to Mr. Harris of Oxfam.

2. As I mention in the report several Zanzibaris wish to emigrate to Commonwealth countries. At the moment there does not seem to be much hope that they will be allowed to do so. If your investigations show that only the lack of adequate documentation (and consequent 'non-returnability') of the Zanzibaris prevents their emigrating to Commonwealth countries, we could perhaps ask Shaikh Rashid of Dubai to assist by providing a document which would state his willingness to allow immigrants, who proved to be unacceptable to the new country, to return to Dubai. The cost of such repatriation would of course have to be guaranteed by the person concerned.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to John Rich in Bahrain. I enclose several extra copies of the report.

...

Yours ever,

Michael Tait

(M.L. Tait)

M.C.S. Weston, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY,
TRUCIAL STATES,
DUBAI.

10114/65

29 December, 1965.

The Zanzibari Community in Dubai

The Community, which seems largely lower middle-class in outlook, is small, well-organised and comparatively well-educated.

2. Although the Zanzibaris naturally resent having to accept work here which is inferior in interest, remuneration and security to their previous employment in Zanzibar, they have nevertheless adapted themselves well to their new environment. Of the hundred strong community, there remain only six unemployed males. (The community is made up of about sixty-five men, twenty women and fifteen children). The better-educated men have obtained jobs with very reasonable salaries and are able to help their less fortunate compatriots. In this and many similar ways individual Zanzibaris have shown their willingness to accept responsibilities towards their community.

3. Although as many as one hundred Zanzibaris have arrived at one time in Dubai, the present rate of arrivals is about ten a month. In the past a large proportion of the immigrants were ill or elderly and unable to work. These people have now either been repatriated to the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman or have left Dubai for more promising areas. The health of the Zanzibaris remaining here is good and their present problems are largely financial. They are unable to maintain the same standard of living as they had in Zanzibar and most of their money is either sent to their unfortunate relatives at home or else put towards the cost of bringing them from Zanzibar to the Gulf. Although the Zanzibaris here are not starving, these two commitments combined with the expense involved in supporting their dependents in Dubai keep them uncomfortably close to the bread-line.

4. They are also faced with the difficulty of providing an adequate education for younger Zanzibaris. Academic standards in Zanzibar seems to have been very high; here they are abysmally low. Furthermore the medium of instruction is Arabic and nearly all the Zanzibaris arrived in Dubai with only the sketchiest knowledge of the language. For the older and more advanced children facilities exist neither in English nor Arabic.

5. Because of the Gulf climate and the lack of commercial opportunit for those without capital several Zanzibaris have expressed their wish to emigrate to the U.K. or to Commonwealth countries. The Secretary of the Association has already discussed this with the Consular Office at the Political Agency and it appears that the principal stumbling block to a would-be Zanzibari emigrant from Dubai is the absence of adequate documentation and the strigency of immigration regulations.

.../6.

6. The lot of the Zanzibari Community is a hard one. They have in a most commendable way organised themselves and adapted to their new environment. But in spite of their considerable efforts to help themselves, they are desperately hard-up and, worst of all, separated from their families. Their own assessment is that if assistance can be provided, it should be devoted to paying firstly for the transport of their relatives from Zanzibar, then to raising their present low standard of living and finally to the education of their children. It is difficult to disagree with their view of their needs. There is the further point that if it should prove possible to arrange for the immigration of these people into Commonwealth countries, extra finance would be required to cover the Costs of the Journey involved.

-ooOoo-

x2. 19/1

CONFIDENTIAL

Registry No. B1821/1

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

Insert Telephone No. & Ext. when appropriate.

January, 1966.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION 19 JAN 1966 SENT TO TYPE 19/1 DESPATCHED 19/1

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

13/1

Draft.

E/2]

Letter to:

C. P. Scott, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
UNITED KINGDOM MISSION. GENEVA.
[Encl. D. Tait's letter + the report]

From:

M. S. Weir

Copied to:

H. Phillips, Esq., C.M.G.,
Political Residency,
Bahrain.

H. G. Balfour-Paul, Esq.,
Political Agency,
Dubai.

U.N. ECOSOC Dept.,
(Mr. Mays)
FIRST

19/1

Please refer to ~~your letter~~ 18220 of 16 December about the Manga Arabs in Dubai.

2. I enclose a copy of the report which we have now received from the Agency. I leave it to your discretion to decide how much of this to pass on to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, bearing in mind paragraph 3 of my earlier letter. We should however have no objection to your giving him a copy of the report in confidence. We have incidentally given a copy to OXFAM.

3. The position of the refugees appears to be not ~~to be~~ quite so bad as had been supposed. Paragraph 6 of the Report suggests ways in which it might be possible to provide help. I ~~am inclined however to doubt whether it is~~ imagine from what you say SAY IMAGINE the High Commissioner might have doubts about the desirability of increasing their number by assisting their relatives to join them from Zanzibar, but we would not want to comment on this point ourselves. ~~On the other hand~~ I do not think it likely that any Commonwealth countries would accept them, but they do not look very good. ~~But I doubt whether there is in fact anything~~ Then remains the High Commissioner's original suggestion that he might send ~~for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to do~~ a representative BEIRUT to Dubai to see the refugees for himself (your letter of 20 November). ~~present.~~ If he still wants to do so we would not wish to object, ~~provided~~ that the P - R - agrees.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Horace Phillips ~~at~~ the Residency at Bahrain and to Glen Balfour-Paul ~~at~~ Dubai.

19/1

CONFIDENTIAL

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(52742) 8/64 St. S.

CONFIDENTIAL

(B 1821/1)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

19 January, 1966.

Please refer to your letter 18220 of 16 December about the Manga Arabs in Dubai.

2. I enclose a copy of the report which we have now received from the Agency. I leave it to your discretion to decide how much of this to pass on to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, bearing in mind paragraph 3 of my earlier letter. We should however have no objection to your giving him a copy of the report in confidence. We have incidentally given a copy to OXFAM.

3. The position of the refugees appears to be not quite so bad as had been supposed. Paragraph 6 of the Report suggests ways in which it might be possible to provide help. I imagine from what you say that the High Commissioner might have doubts about the desirability of increasing their number by assisting their relatives to join them from Zanzibar, but we would not want to comment on this point ourselves. We have no definite information yet about the chances of any Commonwealth country accepting them, but they do not look very good. There remains the High Commissioner's original suggestion that he might send his Beirut representative to Dubai to see the refugees for himself (your letter of 20 November). If he still wants to do so we would not wish to object, provided that the Political Resident agrees.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Horace Phillips at the Residency at Bahrain and to Glen Balfour-Paul at Dubai.

(M.S. Weir)
Arabian Department

C.P. Scott, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
United Kingdom Mission,
GENEVA.

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

January, 1966.

Registry No. B 1821/1

Insert Telephone No. & Ext. when appropriate.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open

Draft.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
19 JAN 1966
SENT TO TYPE 19/1
DESPATCHED

Letter to:

M. R. Harris, Esq.,
Field Secretary for Africa,
Oxford Committee for Famine Relief,
274, Banbury Road,
Oxford.

From:

T. F. Brenchley

I undertook in my letter B 1822/1 of 26 November to write to you again on the subject of the Manga Arab refugees in Dubai when I had heard from the Political Agent. I have now ~~done so and~~ received his report, a copy of which I enclose ~~a copy of his report~~ (although I understand that a copy has already been sent to you direct). ~~I think~~ The report seems to give a clear picture of the situation, which ~~sets out the problem very clearly but~~ is not particularly encouraging as we had feared. Please ~~do not hesitate to write to me again~~ if you would like us to try to get ~~required~~ any further information. Let me know

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(52742) 8/64 St. S.

(B 1821/1)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

19 January, 1966.

I undertook in my letter B 1822/1 of 26 November to write to you again on the subject of the Manga Arab refugees in Dubai when I had heard from the Political Agent. I have now received his report, a copy of which I enclose (although I understand that a copy has already been sent to you direct). The report seems to give a clear picture of the situation, which is not perhaps as bad as we had feared. Please let me know if you would like us to try to get any further information.

(T.F. Brenchley)
Arabian Department

M.R. Harris, Esq.,
Field Secretary for Africa,
Oxford Committee for Famine Relief,
274, Banbury Road,
Oxford.

CONFIDENTIAL

(1823)

With the Compliments of

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S
POLITICAL RESIDENCY

M.S. Weir Esq.,

Arabian Dept.

BRITISH RESIDENCY
P.O. BOX 3,
BAHRAIN

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
7 FEB 1966
B 1821/1(A)

CONFIDENTIAL

(1823)

BRITISH RESIDENCY,
BAHRAIN

28 January, 1966

With reference to Michael Weir's letter B.1821/1 of 19 January from Arabian Department to you about the Manga Arabs in Dubai, I confirm that the Political Resident has no objection to a visit to Dubai by an acceptable representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees if this is considered necessary and likely to be useful.

2. I am copying this letter to Michael Weir and also to Balfour-Paul in Dubai.

(H. Phillips)

C.P. Scott Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
United Kingdom Mission,
GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
Villa La Fenêtre, Route de Pregny, GENEVA
Telephone: 33 23 85

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 5
17 FEB 1966
B(821/1(B)

(1824/66) 10 February, 1966

Dear Richard,

Please refer to your letter of 19 February, (B 1821/1) about the group of Manga Arabs in Dubai.

2. I called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and handed him a potted version of the report prepared by the Political Agency in Dubai. He thanked me for the information and went on to discuss what, if anything, he should now do to help the group. As it happens Jamieson, the High Commissioner's Director of Operations, is shortly going to Dar es Salaam and he undertook to make enquiries about the dependants of the Group still in Zanzibar to ascertain whether there would be any difficulty over obtaining exit permits for them and, if not, whether in fact they wish to join their relations in Dubai.

3. The High Commissioner told me that he had funds available for moving the remainder of the group to Dubai but he would not consider doing so unless he had an assurance that the Ruler of Dubai would allow them to enter the territory. I would be grateful if Glen Balfour-Paul, to whom I am sending a copy of this letter, could let me have his views on this.

4. As regards a visit by Goodyear, his representative in Beirut, the High Commissioner said he would consider this after Jamieson had reported on the situation in Zanzibar. He did not discuss the resettlement of the group elsewhere and I got the impression that provided the group are not suffering hardships in Dubai - and there is nothing in the report from Dubai to suggest this - he would be willing to move the family reunion cases and then disengage himself.

5. I am also sending a copy of this letter to Horace Phillips at Bahrain.

Yours ever

Peter

(C.P. Scott)

M.S. Weir Esq.,
Arabian Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

RESTRICTED

DE

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8/3

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
7 MAR 1966
SENT TO TYPE 8/3.
REGISTRY 9/3.

Registry No. B1821/1

Insert Telephone No. & Ext. when appropriate.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
~~Confidential.~~
Restricted.
~~Open.~~

7/3

Draft. letter to

H.G. Balfour-Paul, Esq.,

~~D.A.~~, Dubai.

from

M.C.S. WESTON

In §2 of his letter 10114/65C of 30 December, 1965, Michael Tait mentioned that several of the Zanzibaris in Dubai wished to emigrate ~~(early)~~ to Commonwealth countries. 2. We have now had a chance to discuss the possibility of this with the Australian and Canadian High Commissions ~~at~~. I fear any of the Zanzibaris the chances of ~~the Zanzibaris~~ proving acceptable are not ~~taken as one might expect~~ good.

3. There would be no bar in principle to their entry into Canada, but it is clear that they might have difficulty in fulfilling the requirements, which are PRETTY ~~petty~~ strict. Applicants must be sponsored by residents in Canada (~~of~~), have ample financial

/means

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(52742) 8/64 St. S.

means or possess certain specified — mostly unusual skills. Any Zanzibaris in Dubai who consider that they might qualify should apply in the first instance to the Canadian Embassy in Beirut.

4. The Australians are even more choosy. It seems that immigrants have to be (from) of European descent, at least on one side. I fear this means inter alia that they must have white skins. The Australians too are in need of persons with certain skills; they have for instance a surfeit of clerks and salesmen. Applications should be made direct to the Secretary for Immigration in (Canberra) Canberra.

4. I am afraid that nine of the above is very helpful and serves only to confirm our fears. You may however care to pass the information on to Mr. KHASSIBY.

MRW 7/3

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RESTRICTED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(B 1821/1)

9 March 1966

In paragraph 2 of his letter 10114/65C of 30 December, 1965, Michael Tait mentioned that several of the Zanzibaris in Dubai wished to emigrate to Commonwealth countries.

2. We have now had a chance to discuss the possibility of this with the Australian and Canadian High Commissions. I fear the chances of any of the Zanzibaris proving acceptable are not good.

3. There would be no bar in principle to their entry into Canada, but it is clear that they might have difficulty in fulfilling the requirements, which are pretty strict. Applicants must be sponsored by residents in Canada, have ample financial means or possess certain specified - mostly unusual - skills. Any Zanzibaris in Dubai who consider that they might qualify should apply in the first instance to the Canadian Embassy in Beirut.

4. The Australians are even more choosy. It seems that immigrants have to be of European descent, at least on one side. I fear this means inter alia that they must have white skins. The Australians too are in need of persons with certain skills; they have for instance a surfeit of clerks and salesmen. Applications should be made direct to the Secretary for Immigration in Canberra.

5. I am afraid that none of the above is very helpful and serves only to confirm our fears. You may however care to pass the information on to Mr. Khassiby.

(M.C.S. Weston)
Arabian Department

H.G. Balfour-Paul, Esq.,
Dubai

RESTRICTED

TFB
9/3
MCSW letter 9/3
Enter

OXFORD COMMITTEE FOR FAMINE RELIEF **OXFAM** 274 BANBURY ROAD · OXFORD · TEL: 54333

MRH/DM/4633

8th March, 1966.

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
10 MAR 1966
B1821/1 (C)

T. F. Brenchley, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
The Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Brenchley,

Grant 4633

I had delayed replying to your letter No. B 1821/1 of the 19th January on the subject of the Manga Arab refugees in Dubai, hoping that I would have a clearer idea concerning any financial contribution that we might have available to help the present situation.

However, we have heard nothing more from Dubai and I presume that the situation has more or less solved itself. From Mr. Tait's previous report I was not very clear as to how Oxfam could be of further assistance. There is the possibility that U.N.H.C.R. might have a small amount of money remaining in its funds for the possible transportation of the relatives of those still in Dubai to travel there from Zanzibar. Should such a specific request be received one might be able to do something about it, although we would not be able to help over the general question of the education of the children and of the raising of the standard of living.

I agree however, with your statement that the situation is not as bad as we had feared. Should you hear anything more please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

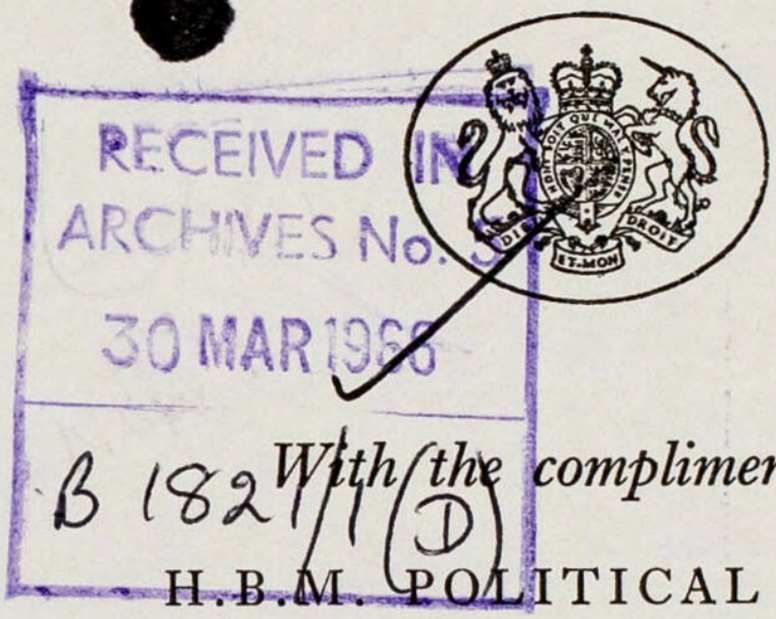
M. R. Harris
Field Secretary for Africa.

Chairman : Canon T R Milford MA Vice-Chairman : Michael H Rowntree MA Hon Treasurer : R H Langdon-Davies DFC FCA
Hon Secretary : C Jackson Cole Deputy Hon Secretary : Dr Leo Liepmann Director : H Leslie Kirkley

RESTRICTED

B

(10114/66C) 19 March 1966.



With the compliments of

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENT

M.S.Weir, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY

TRUCIAL STATES

DUBAI

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

(10114/66C)

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY,
TRUCIAL STATES,
DUBAI.
19 March, 1966.

B 1821/1

Please refer to your letter 1824/66 of 10 February to Weir about the groups of Manga Arabs in Dubai.

2. To judge by the Ruler of Dubai's general open-door policy and the consideration he has shown so far for Zanzibaris, I should be surprised if he were to refuse admittance to the dependants of the Manga Arabs already established here. But before approaching him for an assurance on this point, I think I must know the approximate numbers involved. Could the United Nations High Commissioner provide an estimate?

3. Zanzibaris wishing to come to Dubai must incidentally be in possession of No Objection Certificates obtained for them from this Agency by their local sponsor.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Michael Weir in Arabian Department and to Horace Phillips in Bahrain.

(H.G. Balfour-Paul)

C.P. Scott, Esq.,
The United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations,
GENEVA

RESTRICTED

Arabian Department,
Foreign Office.

B

With the compliments of

THE UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

B1821/1

With reference to Mr. Scott's letter to Mr. Weir of 10 February, 1966

THE UNITED KINGDOM MISSION,
VILLA LA FENÊTRE,
ROUTE DE PREGNY,
GENEVA

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES
27 APR 1966

B1821/1 (E)

UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

NATIONS UNIES
OFFICE DU HAUT-COMMISSAIRE
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

Télégrammes : HICOMREF
Télex : 22.212 ou 22.344
Téléphone : 33 10 00 33 20 00 33 40 00

Palais des Nations
1211 GENÈVE 10

15/112
64/CO/ZAN

13 April, 1966

Mr. Ewans

Dear Sir Eugene,

I have the honour to refer to the various contacts between your Mission and this Office concerning the group of persons from Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, who wished to leave the Islands to go to Muscat. A number of them finally arrived in Dubai, Mukalla, Qatar and Kuwait.

When Mr. C.P. Scott visited the previous High Commissioner last November, he left with us an interesting background note on the Manga Arab community in Dubai (Trucial States). I thought you would like to know that we have been following up on this problem and have requested our Representative in the Middle East, Mr. Leslie Goodyear (British) to proceed from Beyrouth to some of the areas mentioned above to look into the situation. Mr. J.D.R. Kelly, our Representative in London, is being kept fully informed and has been instructed to take whatever steps are necessary in London to obtain clearances for Mr. Goodyear's mission. One of Mr. Goodyear's major tasks will be to determine whether among the group there are refugees within the mandate of the High Commissioner.

You may be interested to know that there is a further group of 220 persons who wish to leave Zanzibar for the same destinations as the previous groups. We are bringing this to Mr. Goodyear's notice too for any action he may deem appropriate when he is on the spot.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Jamieson

Thomas Jamieson
[illegible]

Sir Eugene Melville
UK Delegation
Villa "La Fenêtre"
Route de Pregny

GENEVA

1966

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

CONFIDENTIAL

B 1821/2.

FROM W.N. Hillier-Fry, Colonial Office to Arabian Department

No. ADN 117/5/01

Dated 4 March.

Received 18 March

(Outward Action)

SUBJECT: Asks for background information on Zanzibari detainees before asking High Commissioner in Aden to raise the question of permission for Omar Hamadi & others to enter South Arabia, which it is thought by Amnesty International would lead to their release from detention by President Nyerere.

Encloses Copy of:

ads R.H. Hobden, C.R.O.

Enc. letter F.A. Ward, Amnesty International, Twickenham to The Secretary, Colonial Office.

References and Relevant Papers:

MINUTES

A) R.H. Hobden: C.R.O. to ~~W.N. Hillier-Fry~~ P. Gut – 2-EA F/64 – 15 March
(Ads W.N. Hillier-Fry, Colonial Office)

B) W.N. Hillier-Fry C.O. to Arabian Department – ADN 117/5/01 – 16 March
(Ads F.A. Ward, Amnesty International, Twickenham)

MMG
23/3

Mr. Gut 23/3

(Printing Instructions)

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
24/3/66	5/10/67

COPY

COLONIAL OFFICE,
Great Smith Street, S.W.1

ADN 117/5/01

Tel: ABB 1266 Ext.82

RECD IN
ADEN REGY
13 MAR 1966
B 1821/2.

4 March, 1966

Dear Hobden,

I enclose a copy of the letter dated 10th February from Amnesty International about Omar Hamadi Mkame Ndune which I mentioned to you on the telephone, together with a copy of my interim reply.

2. Before we ask the High Commissioner in Aden to raise with the South Arabian authorities the question of permission for Omar Hamadi and other detainees to enter South Arabia I should be grateful for any background information you can supply about the Zanzibaris. The question which South Arabian authorities would no doubt ask themselves is: are they likely to stir up trouble if admitted to South Arabia?

Yours sincerely,

(signed) W.N. Hillier-Fry

R.H. Hobden, Esq.,
Commonwealth Relations Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

COPY

4 March, 1966

ADN.117/5/01

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 10th February about the possibility of Arab detainees in Zanzibar being allowed to go to South Arabia. We are looking into this matter and I will write to you again as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

(W.N. Hillier-Fry)

F.A.Ward,Esq.,
Secretary
Richmond and Twickenham
Humanist Amnesty Group,
34, Bonser Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

COPY

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL,
(British Section)

34, Bonser Road,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

Admission of Tanzanian Detainees to Aden. 10.2.66.

Dear Sir,

This Group of Amnesty International is interested in the fate of Umar Hamadi Mkamendume, otherwise known as Omar Hamadi "Mkame Ndune", a member of the Zanzibar National Assembly until the coup of December 1963, when he was arrested and subsequently sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

We have heard that President Nyerere would consider releasing most of the Arab detainees in Zanzibar, if he could be assured that they would not be a threat or a nuisance to his government. Others, who have already been released there, are not able to leave the country, nor can they obtain employment there.

We understand that the British Crown Colony of Aden and the Protectorate States, and also Muscat and Oman, have already taken large numbers of refugees from Zanzibar, without passports or official registration. If this procedure could be followed for other Arab refugees, including Umar Hamadi and other ex-ministers, they would be able to settle in a more congenial and sympathetic racial atmosphere.

If there is anything you can do to help towards these ends, which might help to dispel "racism" from the political scene in Zanzibar, it would be very much appreciated.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

(F.A.Ward), Secretary,
Richmond & Twickenham Humanist
Amnesty Group.

To: The Secretary, Colonial Office, Church House,
Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

15 March, 1966

With the Compliments

of

(R.H. Hobden)
EAST AFRICA POLITICAL DEPT.,

Kenya.

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
18 MAR 1966

15/5

P. Gent, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1

B 1821/2(A)

CONFIDENTIAL

ADN.117/5/01
2-EA F/64

15 March, 1966

Thank you for your letter of 4 March about Amnesty International's interest in Omar Hamadi Mkame Ndune.

2. Since the Zanzibar Nationalist Party Government and the Sultan were ousted in the January 1964 Revolution, eleven members of Shamte's Z.N.P. Cabinet have been detained on the mainland of Tanzania. We understand that Omar Hamadi is one of those still in prison serving a ten year sentence awarded by the Revolutionary Council in 1964. He was a member of the Zanzibar and Pemba Peoples Party and won the 1961 election for the Mtambili constituency. He became a Government Whip during the Shamte regime and acted as Minister for Agriculture for a short time.

3. We believe that towards the end of 1964 President Nyerere was considering the possibility of releasing the Zanzibar detainees either allowing them to go overseas or even to take jobs on the mainland of Tanzania; but immediately afterwards came the so-called "Arab Plot" in Zanzibar resulting in the execution of five persons. Since then, the Zanzibari leaders have been preoccupied with thoughts of a counter-revolution and this has proved a real setback to any hopes that the detainees might be released.

4. There is, of course, always the risk that enquiries from Europeans about political prisoners in Tanzania may arouse the suspicions of the Tanzanian authorities and in the long run do the prisoners themselves no good; but Amnesty International may well feel that if they give a proper explanation of their background and interest that this is a risk worth running. However, as the Colonial Secretary recognised in his letter of 8 December, 1965, to Sean MacBride of the International Committee of Jurists, this is a matter in which the British Government have had to be very careful not to get involved. Last summer, both our post in Dar es Salaam and this Office had enquiries from your correspondent about Omar Hamadi and we felt obliged to say no more to him than suggest that he should write to the Tanzanian High Commission in London. We felt obliged even to refrain from suggesting directly to Amnesty International that they should approach President Nyerere, partly because we could not rely on their discretion in concealing the British Government's humanitarian interest in these ex-ministers, particularly if their appeal to Nyerere proved unsuccessful, and partly because if they were to fail in their appeal they might well turn to us for support, which we should find it embarrassing either to give or withhold. Furthe points to be borne in mind are that the representative of the International Red Cross in Zanzibar was expelled from the Island in September

W.N. Hillier-Fry, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

/1964

1964 for his part in the scheme for repatriating Arabs to Muscat. Some 4,000 Manga Arabs have left Zanzibar since the revolution and President Karume of Zanzibar has let it be known that in his view there is no need for any Arab to leave the Islands.

5. Against this background, we think it unlikely in the long run that we would be doing these prisoners any good if Amnesty International were able to let it be known to the Tanzanian authorities that a British Colony or Protectorate was willing to receive them, but that the Tanzanians might take it less amiss if Amnesty International were themselves to approach the State of Muscat and Oman (which I notice Mr. Ward mentions in his letter to the Colonial Office), particularly as this is a state for whose internal affairs the British Government is not responsible and which has already provided hospitality for a large number of Arabs from Zanzibar.

6. We suggest therefore that the reply to Mr. Ward should make the following points:-

(i) that as the Tanzanian Government has been in breach of diplomatic relations with Britain since last December, it will be necessary for any enquiries about Mr. Omar Hamadi to be addressed to the Tanzanian Interests Section, Canadian High Commission, 43 Hertford Street, London, W.1.;

(ii) that this is not a matter in which the British Government can be involved;

(iii) that it would be premature for the British Government to raise with the South Arabian authorities the question of permission for Omar Hamadi and other detainees to enter South Arabia unless and until the Tanzanian authorities indicated their willingness to release them, and until the wishes of Mr. Omar Hamadi and others are known;

(iv) that we are unable to offer any advice about the possibility of entry into Muscat and Oman, since the British Government are not responsible for the internal affairs of that state, but that as so many Manga Arabs from Zanzibar have been resettled in Muscat and Oman this is a matter which Mr. Ward may wish to consider pursuing further himself.

7. I am sending a copy of this letter to P. Gent, Arabian Department, Foreign Office, for any comments he may have about Amnesty International's suggestion that Muscat and Oman might provide refuge for these detainees. I am also sending Gent a copy of your letter and of its enclosures.

(R.H. Hobden)
EAST AFRICA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT

With the compliments of

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
18 MAR 1966
B 182/2(B)

Mr. W. N. Hillier-Fry

16 MAR 1966

COLONIAL OFFICE
GREAT SMITH STREET
LONDON S.W.1

ADN 117/5/01 16th March, 1966

Dear Sir,

As promised in my letter dated 4th March I am writing with further reference to your letter of the 10th February about the possible admission to Aden of Tanzanian detainees.

On consideration we feel that it would be premature for the British Government to raise with the South Arabian authorities the question of permission for Mr. Omar Hamadi and other detainees to enter South Arabia until the Tanzanian authorities have indicated their willingness to release them and until the wishes of Mr. Omar Hamadi himself and the other detainees are known. As you will appreciate, it is not a matter in which the British Government have any locus standi with the Tanzanian Government. Moreover, since diplomatic relations with Britain were broken off by the Tanzanian Government last December, it would be necessary for any enquiries about Mr. Omar Hamadi to be addressed to the Tanzanian Interests Section, Canadian High Commission, 43 Hertford Street, London, W.1.

If you should wish to pursue the possibility of Mr. Omar Hamadi being admitted to Muscat and Oman I would suggest that you should write direct to the Government of Muscat and Oman since the British Government are not responsible for the internal affairs of that State.

Yours faithfully,

(W. N. HILLIER-FRY)

F. A. WARD, ESQ.,
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL,
34, BONSER ROAD,
TWICKENHAM,
MIDDLESEX.

1966

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

RESTRICTED

B 1821/3.

FROM F.O. Muscat
for K.R.C. Pridham

No.

Dated 14 April.

Received 15 April

SUBJECT: Request by U.N. High Commission for Refugees for help in getting the Sultan of Muscat to receive one of his officials, Mr Leslie Goodyear, to discuss the possibility of a further 170 Manga Arabs being allowed into the Sultanate, & the welfare of those already there.

Encloses Copy of:

References and Relevant Papers:

(Outward Action)

Dft) Muscat 73 15/4.

MINUTES

15/4

(Printing Instructions)

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
19/4/66	5/10/67

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No 5
15 APR 1966

B 1821/3

Manga Arabs

Mr. Kelly, the London representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, called on me today to ask for our help in getting the Sultan of Muscat to receive a representative of the High Commissioner to discuss entry into Muscat of those Manga Arabs still left in Zanzibar.

2. He said that the present position is that 1100 Manga Arabs have so far been evacuated from Zanzibar and that there were 220 left, of which 171 wished to go to Muscat and the remainder to Dubai. There was no problem about Dubai but the High Commissioner wished to send to Muscat as soon as possible a Mr. Leslie Goodyear, a British citizen on his staff, in order to discuss with the Sultan the grant of visas for the remaining 171 Manga Arabs who wished to go to Muscat, and also the general welfare of the 1100 who have already arrived there. A visa had been applied for through the Consulate at Beirut but the Consulate had suggested that the matter should also be taken up in London and our Representative in Muscat asked to speak to the Sultan. It was not only the question of a visa, but also of accommodation being authorised by the Sultan and of course of the Sultan agreeing to receive Mr. Goodyear and discuss the matter with him.

3. I told Mr. Kelly that I felt sure that the action he requested could be taken. I hope this is so and that a telegram may be sent to our Representative at Muscat accordingly. The High Commissioner is anxious to get Mr. Goodyear there as soon as he can.

K. Pridham.

(K.R.C. Pridham)
14 April, 1966

Mr. Brenchley (Arabian Dept.)

Registry No.
DEPARTMENT ARAB

* Date and time (G.M.T.) telegram should reach addressee(s)

CYPHER

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PRIORITY MARKINGS
~~Top Secret~~ ~~Secret~~ ~~Confidential~~ Restricted Unclassified P.G. 15/4	Emergency }* Immediate } Priority ~~Routine~~

(Date) 15/4/1927

Despatched

~~En Clair~~.
~~Code~~
Cypher

[Security classification —if any] Restricted

[Codeword—if any]

Addressed to Muscat

telegram No. 73 (date) 15/4

And to

repeated for information to

RECEIVED 16 APR 1966 F 1821/3

Saving to Bahrain Residency, Beirut

Draft Telegram to:—
Muscat
No. 73
(Date) 15/4

And to:—

Repeat to:—

Saving to:—
Bahrain
Residency 92 SAV
Beirut
103 SAV

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has asked for our help in getting the Sultan to receive ~~someone~~ one of his ~~representatives~~ officials to discuss the possibility of a further 170 Manga Arabs being allowed into the Sultanate, and the welfare of those already there. His representative, Mr. Leslie Goodyear, has applied for a visa through ~~the~~ H.M. Embassy ~~in~~ Beirut.

2. Please approach the Sultan, mentioning that ~~you have been asked to assist as~~ are doing so at the request of the High Commissioner and on the basis that Mr. Goodyear is a U.K. citizen, and express the hope that he will authorise issue of visa and agree to receive him.

Departmental Distribution:—
F.O.
Arabian
U.N. (Ecosoc)
C.R.O.
East Africa
Copies to:—(Polit.)

P. Rent.

Mem 19/4

Distr to:
FO Arabian
UN.
CRO EA Pol. Dept.

yf 15/4

1345
15/4/66

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

RESTRICTED

TOP COPY

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MUSCAT

Cypher/OTP and By Bag

DEPARTMENTAL
DISTRIBUTION

No. 73

15 April 1966

D. 1927 15 April 1966

PRIORITY
RESTRICTED

Addressed to Muscat telegram No. 73 of 15 April.
Repeated for information Saving to: Bahrain Residency
Beirut

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has asked for our help in getting the Sultan to receive one of his officials to discuss the possibility of a further 170 Manga Arabs being allowed into the Sultanate, and the welfare of those already there. His representative, Mr. Leslie Goodyear, has applied for a visa through Her Majesty's Embassy Beirut.

2. Please approach the Sultan, mentioning that you are doing so at the request of the High Commissioner and on the basis that Mr. Goodyear is a United Kingdom citizen, and express the hope that he will authorise issue of visa and agree to receive him.

DISTRIBUTED TO:

F.O. Arabian Dept.
United Nations Dept.

C.R.O. E.A. Pol. Dept.

@@@@@

RESTRICTED

1966

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

CONFIDENTIAL

GENERAL

B 1821/4

FROM Mr Carden, Muscat to Bahrain

No. 64

Dated 3 May

Received 4 May

(Outward Action)

SUBJECT: The Sultan of Muscat is unwilling to receive a representative from U.N. Commissioner for Refugees, he claims that the emergency is now over & if Arabs now living in Zanzibar wish to come to the Sultanate they are free to apply in the normal way through relatives or sponsors there.

Encloses Copy of:

repeated to F.O. No 64

References and Relevant Papers:

-/3.

MINUTES

I am afraid that I do not think there is anything we can do except to inform Mr. Kelly of the position and regret that the Sultan should have taken this line.

Plent 6/5

U.N (ECOSOC) Dept.

A) Mr Carden, Muscat — No 65 - 3 May

I agree with Mr Plent and with the suggestion in Muscat tel No 65. I assume that Mr Ridham will prefer to inform Mr Kelly orally, rather than in writing.

C.G.J. Mayo 9/5.

Mr Powell-Jones.

He is going to see me tomorrow on other matters, when I can dispose of this if you wish.

J. Powell-Jones

Yes please

Mr Powell-Jones / Dis to Hen 10/5 K.P. 10/5

9/5 A.P. 11/5

(Printing Instructions)

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed) 13/4/66

(Main Indexed) 5/10/67

B

FROM MUSCAT TO FOREIGN OFFICE TOP COPY

En Clair DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Carden

No. 64 -/3 D: 1623 3 May, 1966
3 May, 1966 R: 1700 3 May, 1966

4 MAY 1966

B 1821/4.

Addressed Bahrain telegram No.64 of 3 May,
Repeated for information to: Foreign Office
Beirut

Your telegram No.73: Refugees.

The Sultan is unwilling to receive the person concerned or to authorize a visit for discussions with officials. He said that in the initial emergency he permitted the entry of several thousand persons claiming connection with the Sultanate. The emergency is over. The Sultanate authorities have reports of families that are returning to Zanzibar and of others that have remained there and are well and safe. Finally, if Arabs now in Zanzibar are willing to come to the Sultanate it is open to them to apply individually and through their relatives or other sponsors in this country.

DISTRIBUTED TO:-

F.O. Arabian Dept.
U.N. Dept.
C.R.O. E. Africa Political Dept.

LFA

4 MAY 1966

B

CONFIDENTIAL

TOP COPY

FROM MUSCAT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Carden

B1821/4

No. 65
3 May 1966

D. 1430 3 May 1966
R. 1658 3 May 1966

P
ARC
4 MAY 1966
B1821/4(A)

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.65 of 3 May.
Repeated for information to: Bahrain
Beirut

My immediately preceding telegram: Refugees from Zanzibar.

I do not think that the Sultan will change his mind but if the United Nations High Commissioner wishes to pursue substance of the above I suggest that he be invited to communicate with the Sultan direct.

Foreign Office pass Beirut 15.

[Repeated as requested]

DISTRIBUTED TO:

F.O. Arabian Dept.
Eastern Dept.
N.E.A.D.
U.N.Dept.

4 MAY
1966

SSSSS

CONFIDENTIAL

1966

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

RESTRICTED

B 1821/5.

FROM F.O. Minute (Record of Conversation)

No.

Dated 20 June

Received 5 July.

(Outward Action)

SUBJECT: Extract from summary record of a meeting with U.N. High Commissioner for refugees held on 20 June 1966: 'Manga Arabs from Zanzibar.'

Encloses Copy of:

References and Relevant Papers:
COPY: ORIGINAL ENTERED
UNR 1826/207.

MINUTES

l.a.
4/7.

(Printing Instructions)

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
M.D-S 7/7.	5/10/67.

Reference EXTRACT

RESTRICTED

B7

(Original entered UKR 1826/20)

RECEIVED
ARCHIVES
B 1821/5.
5 JUL 1966

Summary Record of a Meeting with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees held on 20 June 1956 at 11 a.m. in the Foreign Office

Mango Arabs from Zanzibar

12. The High Commissioner mentioned that he had moved 1,000 out of 2,000 Mango Arabs who had been listed for evacuation from Zanzibar. It was not clear what had happened to the remainder, but the need for movement seemed to be diminishing. He still had funds for assistance for them. The operation had been carried out quietly and with support from governments and private organisations which had been much appreciated. One useful political result had been to demonstrate to the Arab countries that the High Commissioner's work was genuinely humanitarian and could be called upon to provide assistance for Arab refugees as well as others.

Ed (1626)

1966

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

GENERAL

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

B 1821/6

FROM J.E. Cable Beirut to K.R. Pridham

No. 1824/7/66

Dated 25/7

Received 29/7.

SUBJECT: Enclosure an Aide Memoire about the problems of Zanzibar refugees wishing to obtain access to Muscat and Oman.

Encloses Copy of:

References and Relevant Papers:

(Outward Action)

7/8) Mr J.E. Cable (Beirut) from Mr Pridham 29/7
8c) Mr Marshall (Geneva)
Mr Roberts (Dubai)
Mr Bragnell (Muscat) } 10/8

7/8) Mr J.E. Cable (Beirut) from Mr Pridham 30/8
8) Mr Marshall (Geneva)
Mr Clark (Dubai)
Mr Bragnell (Muscat) } 30/8

(Printing Instructions)

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed) 12/9/66

(Main Indexed) 5/10/67

U.N. (ECOSOC) – Mr. Mays

MINUTES

I am afraid that this is not a matter for H.M.G., who are in the same position as our Embassy in Beirut i.e. we can act as a post-office between the U.N.H.C.R and the Sultan but we can not – and should not attempt to – decide the Sultan's policies for him.

2. I note that this report is 'unconfirmed' and that the individuals in question do not appear to have complied with the Sultan's instructions which Mr. Goodyear himself refers to in the Aide-Memoire and which are not unreasonable, viz. the fact that they had said to have had Omani passports and that these were confiscated may well be explained by the existence of separate passports, issued by the ex-Imam of Oman, which are not, of course, recognised by the Sultan or by H.M.G. In any case this is not something that concerns H.M.G. and we must,

think, try and get across to Mr. Goodyear that if he wishes to take up reports of this kind, he should do so by writing direct to the Sultan. H.M.G. have no responsibility whatsoever for the affairs of the Sultanate which is a fully sovereign and independent state.

P. Gent 4/8

Mr Gent.

I think we should ask Mr Cable to reply on the lines of your minute above. It might prevent further misunderstanding of HMG's position if the Mission in Geneva were also asked to explain matters informally to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

E.G.H. Mays 4/8.

Mr. Mays Draft letter attached

P. Gent 9/8.

P/A 9/8

19) Mr. D. Pragnell (Muscat) to K.R.S. Prichard

1800 – 13/8

Mr. Mays

I do not see why we should not pass this information on but we should try and avoid invoking the force of our general point on relations between the U.N.H.C.R. and the Sultanate, set out in Mr. Prudhomme's letter of 10 August. Draft.

P. Gent

KP

30/8

P/A 30/8.

Number of copies.....

Number of copies of enclosures.....

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE

UNCLASSIFIED
(1824/7/66)

Enclosure B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BEIRUT.

25 July, 1966.

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 2
29 JUL 1966
B182/6

Dear Pridham.

Mr. Goodyear, the representative for the Middle East of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, called on me on 22 July and left an Aide-Memoire, of which I enclose a copy, about the problems of Zanzibar refugees wishing to obtain access to Muscat and Oman.

2. I explained that this Embassy could only act as a Post Office in this, but promised to transmit the Aide-Memoire to the Foreign Office and seek instructions. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know, in due course, what reply we should give to Goodyear.

3. I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosures to Duncan in Muscat, Roberts in Dubai and to Marshall, the United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Office of the United Nations.

Yours ever

(J. E. Cable)

K. R. C. Pridham, Esq.,
United Nations Economic
and Social Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

UNITED NATIONS
BRANCH OFFICE IN LEBANON OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

NATIONS UNIES
DELEGATION AU LIBAN DU
HAUT COMMISSAIRE POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

TELEPHONE : [redacted] 272160-1
P. O. BOX : [redacted] 3216

مكتب مندوب الأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

CABLE : HICOMREF, BEIRUT

AIDE MEMOIRE

Following developments in Zanzibar in 1964 some thousands of persons of Arabic origin either fled Zanzibar or were compelled to leave.

Many of these had family or ethnic ties with the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman and so sought asylum in that country. His Highness the Sultan generously granted asylum to many of these refugees on humanitarian grounds.so providing a solution to an acute problem.

Since the initial rush there have been constant small groups of Arabs from Zanzibar who have sailed to Muscat in the hope of being granted asylum. Some of these were in possession of Omani passports but some had no documentation owing to the difficulties of arranging such documentation in Zanzibar.

In response to a suggested visit by a UNHCR official in May last, His Highness the Sultan informed the British Embassy in Beirut and the Foreign Office in London that such a visit was unnecessary as the emergency was over and that any further families wishing to proceed to Muscat and Oman could apply via their relatives or sponsors in the country.

According to an unconfirmed report we have received from Zanzibari refugees now in Dubai, on 6 June 1966 a party of 4 families (24 persons) arrived in Muscat aboard the vessel "Van Riebeck". It is said that all of those people were refused permission to land in spite of the fact that some of them had Omani passports. Furthermore, it was said that the Immigration Authorities at Muscat took the passports and retained them.

These families were finally admitted to Dubai after some difficulty, where the local Association of Zanzibari Refugees is looking after them.

Beirut

19/7/1966

RESTRICTED

Registry No. B 1824/6.

DRAFT

Type 1 +

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

P.G. 9/8

To:—

J.E. Cable, Esq.,
British Embassy,
Beirut.

From
Mr. Pridham
Telephone No. & Ext.
Department

COPIES TO:

P.J. Marshall, Esq.,
U.K. Mission,
Geneva.

D.A. Roberts, Esq.,
Political Agency,
Dubai.

D. Pragnell, Esq.,
Consulate General,
Muscat.

C.S. Murray 9/8.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Would you please refer to your letter (1824/7/66) of 25 April about the problems of Zanzibar refugees wishing to obtain access to Muscat and Oman.

2. I am afraid that our position on this is really very much the same as yours. As you know, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman is a sovereign and independent state and we are in no position to influence the Sultan's policies, particularly when they do not directly concern H.M.G. We have in the past, when there was some element of urgency, acted as a post office for the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and have spoken to the Sultan on their behalf, but we would not wish them to get the impression that we regarded this as the normal channel for communication between them and the Sultan. We would be particularly reluctant to get involved on this occasion, when Mr. Goodyear's aide-mémoire amounts to a complaint against the Sultan. ~~And~~ It is, moreover, based on "an unconfirmed report" and does not explain why the people concerned had apparently not acted in accordance with the Sultan's not unreasonable instructions, mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the aide memoire.

3. In the circumstances I suggest that it would probably be best if you could remind

/ Mr. Goodyear

KP 10/8

(EC080C)

97499 Bk.8.

RESTRICTED

Mr. Goodyear of our position and say that we feel that if the Office of the U.N.H.C.R. wish~~ed~~ to take up this matter they should write direct to the Sultan on it. 4. It might also help to prevent future misunderstanding about H.M.G.'s position if the Mission in Geneva were ~~also~~ to explain matters informally to the Office of the U.N.H.C.R. ~~office~~ there.

I am ~~therefore~~ sending ~~copies~~ a copy of this letter to Marshall in Geneva and should be grateful if he would act accordingly. I am also sending copies to Roberts in Dubai and Pragnell in Muscat.

KP 1/8

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

RESTRICTED

(B 1821/6)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

10 August, 1966

Would you please refer to your letter (1824/7/66) of 25 April about the problems of Zanzibar refugees wishing to obtain access to Muscat and Oman.

2. I am afraid that our position on this is really very much the same as yours. As you know, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman is a sovereign and independent state and we are in no position to influence the Sultan's policies, particularly when they do not directly concern H.M.G. We have in the past, when there was some element of urgency, acted as a Post office for the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and have spoken to the Sultan on their behalf, but we would not wish them to get the impression that we regarded this as the normal channel for communication between them and the Sultan. We would be particularly reluctant to get involved on this occasion, when Mr. Goodyear's aide-mémoire amounts to a complaint against the Sultan. It is, moreover, based on "an unconfirmed report" and does not explain why the people concerned had apparently not acted in accordance with the Sultan's not unreasonable instructions, mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the aide-mémoire.

3. In the circumstances I suggest that it would probably be best if you could remind Mr. Goodyear of our position and say that we feel that if the Office of the U.N.H.C.R. wish to take up this matter they should write direct to the Sultan on it.

4. It might also help to prevent future misunderstanding about H.M.G.'s position if the Mission in Geneva were to explain matters informally to the Office of the U.N.H.C.R. there. I am sending a copy of this letter to Marshall in Geneva and should be grateful if he would act accordingly. I am also sending copies to Roberts in Dubai and Pragnell in Muscat.

(K.R.C. Pridham)

J.E. Cable, Esq.,
BEIRUT.

RESTRICTED

Enter B

(1820)

Unclassified

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL

MUSCAT.

13 August, 1966

B 1821/6

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 35
24 AUG 1966
B1821/6 (A)

Dear Pridham,

Would you please refer to Cable's letter 1824/7/66 of 25 July about Zanzibar refugees returning to Muscat.

2. Although we have no standing in the matter, we have been able to find out unofficially the details of the story about the four families refused permission to land in Muscat from M.V. "Van Riebeck" on 6 June.

a) family No. 1 consisted of the father, his two wives and four children. On arrival the father produced two Omani passports both apparently valid, with a varied assortment of wives and children entered on each. The family was not allowed to land, and travelled on to Dubai whilst the Sultanate authorities checked the man's story that he had lost his first passport, applied for and received a second passport and then re-discovered the first one. The check was satisfactory and the man and his family have since returned overland to Muscat;

b) family No. 2, consisting of the father, his wife, five children and a grandchild had no Omani documents and were also sent on to Dubai. The father was subsequently allowed to return overland to Muscat, proved his claim to Omani nationality and has since collected his family and brought them to the Sultanate;

c) families Nos. 3 and 4 each consisted of the father, wife and two children. Both fathers produced Omani passports which, although genuine, had been issued to other people and falsified by the substitution of the photograph. I have seen these two passports and the substitutions were extremely clumsy and obvious. Neither family was allowed to land, although it is still open to them to apply for proper Omani passports through relatives in the Sultanate, if indeed they have any claim to Omani nationality.

3. You may care to have the above information passed on unofficially to Goodyear. According to my addition we have accounted for only 23 people but I suspect there is probably another baby involved somewhere who got overlooked.

4. /

K.R.C. Pridham, Esq.,
UNited Nations Economic and
Social Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE,
London, S.W.1.

BC1621/8 (65)

4. The most recent Sultanate ruling about Omani emigrants to Africa who wish to return to the Sultanate is contained in my letter 1625 of 29 May 1965 to Peter Gent in Arabian Department (not copied). Supplementary to this there is a standard ruling that any Omani who arrives bearing a genuine Omani passport, even if expired, will be permitted to land.

5. I am copying this letter to Cable in Beirut, Roberts in Dubai and to the U.K. Representative to the European Office of the United Nations.

Yours ever,

Donald Pragnell

(D. Pragnell)

Registry No. B 1821/6.

DRAFT

Type 1 +

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

P.G. 26/8

To:—

Letter to:

J. E. Cable, Esq.,
British Embassy,
Beirut.

From
Mr. Pridham
Telephone No. & Ext.
Department

Copied to:

P. J. Marshall, Esq.,
U.K. Mission,
Geneva.

T. J. Clark, Esq.,
Political Agency,
Dubai.

D. Pragnell, Esq.,
Consulate-General,
Muscat.

Would you please refer to Pragnell's letter (1820) of 13 August to me about Zanzibar refugees returning to Muscat.

2. As you will have seen from my letter (B 1821/6) of 10 August, we are anxious to make H.M.G.'s position with regard to the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman clear to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The affairs of the Sultanate are, in fact, none of our concern and we do not wish them to get the impression that they can turn to us for help and information every time there is some matter of interest to them in the Sultanate. Although we have no objection to your passing Pragnell's information to Goodyear, we would, therefore, be grateful if you would do so orally, making it clear that this is strictly unofficial assistance and that the proper channel is for the U.N.H.C.R. to communicate direct with the Sultan.

3. I am copying this letter to Marshall in Geneva, Clark in Dubai and Pragnell in Muscat.

KP

3/8.

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US

RESTRICTED

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

(B 1821/6)

30 August, 1966.

Would you please refer to Pragnell's letter (1820) of 13 August to me about Zanzibar refugees returning to Muscat.

2. As you will have seen from my letter (B 1821/6) of 10 August, we are anxious to make H.M.G.'s position with regard to the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman clear to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The affairs of the Sultanate are, in fact, none of our concern and we do not wish them to get the impression that they can turn to us for help and information every time there is some matter of interest to them in the Sultanate. Although we have no objection to your passing Pragnell's information to Goodyear, we would, therefore, be grateful if you would do so orally, making it clear that this is strictly unofficial assistance and that the proper channel is for the U.N.H.C.R. to communicate direct with the Sultan.

3. I am copying this letter to Marshall in Geneva, Clark in Dubai and Pragnell in Muscat.

(K. R. C. Pridham)

J. E. Cable Esq,
British Embassy,
Beirut.

RESTRICTED

1966

B

ARABIAN DEPARTMENT

(Security Grading—to be Up-graded where Appropriate)

✓

GENERAL

B 1821/7

FROM
U.N. Document

No. A/AC 96/345
Dated 5th Oct

Received
17th Oct

(Outward Action)
Dft Mr Clark Dubai from Mr Weston 19/10.
Dft Mr Mellmish Bahrain 19/10

SUBJECT: Local Settlement of Zanzibari refugees in Dubai

Encloses Copy of:	References and Relevant Papers:
—	

MINUTES

Mr Weston (Arabian Dept)

- to see, following our conversation today about the brief for the meeting of the Executive Committee next week.

C J Mayes
25/10.

UN Dept (Cross) (Mr Mayes)

Thank you. This seems to be an excellent project; it would appear to have been cleared all right with the Dubai authorities, but it might be worth sending a copy of the document to Dubai with a brief covering note. If you agree, I will draft (though I shall need a copy of the brief referred to above to enable me to do so).

Mr Weston (Arabian Dept).

I agree. Copy of brief attached.

Weston
26/10

C J Mayes
27/10.

over

(Printing Instructions)

(Referred to Legal Adviser)

(Action completed)	(Main Indexed)
2/11	5/10/67

Thank you. Dfc.

31/10

P.a.

1/11

A) Ms. Roberts, Dubai to Mr. Weston – 1014/66c – 16/11

UN (Cross) Dept (Mr Mayo)

The High Commissioner's proposal has been approved by the Executive Committee of this programme.

30/11.

Here p.a.

23/11

Number of copies.....

Number of copies of enclosures.....

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE

UNHCR UN HQ.

UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.96/345 UN
5 October 1966

Original: ENGLISH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Sixteenth session

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES
17 OCT 1966
B 1821/7
HST 1824/28

UNHCR PROGRAMME FOR 1966

NEW PROJECTS

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

Local settlement of Zanzibari refugees in Dubai — US $10,000

Introduction

1. Since 1964 there has been a movement of Zanzibari residents of Arab origin to the Arabian peninsula. The majority of those leaving Zanzibar entered the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, where they had family or ethnic ties. Others, however, unable to do so, have been granted asylum in the Trucial State of Dubai.

2. In May 1966, when a representative of the High Commissioner visited Dubai, there were forty such families there, comprising some 150 persons. It was further reported that over 100 dependants of these families were still in Zanzibar, waiting to join their relatives in Dubai.

3. While the number of persons involved is relatively small their problems are complex and need urgently to be solved. Because of their background as shopkeepers and farmers they have not been able to obtain employment easily in Dubai. Furthermore, their lack of knowledge of Arabic has prevented many from obtaining work in offices, for which they are otherwise well-suited. Similarly, education both primary and secondary has been disrupted owing to their lack of knowledge of the local language.

4. In order, therefore, to enable the refugees to become integrated in the local community as soon as possible, a programme has been formulated following discussions with the Dubai authorities and the refugees.

Outline of the programme

5. Following their arrival in Dubai, the refugees formed an association towards which each family pays a small monthly subscription. In the absence of any organized reception facilities for new arrivals, this association has given an undertaking to the Dubai authorities that it will look after the new arrivals until such time as they can find appropriate accommodation and employment. As the association is, however, short of funds and the process of finding work and accommodation takes about a month for each new group of refugees, it is proposed to make available a grant of US $1,580, in order to meet the requirements of new arrivals during the first month. The amount proposed should suffice to assist some 70 - 75 persons.

6. There are among the refugees a number of families who are experiencing particular hardship. In certain families, there are no working members, in others illness has prevented the breadwinner from securing work. It is therefore proposed to make available an amount of US $6,250 to assist such cases and from which appropriate grants would be provided according to individual need.

7. As indicated above, it is of the greatest importance that the refugee population learn Arabic as soon as possible in order to take advantage of local possibilities. It is proposed, therefore, to appoint two teachers, for a period of 9 months, to give intensive training in Arabic for the primary school children and for those secondary school children and adults who need it. It is estimated that US $1,900 will be needed for this purpose.

Authority requested from the Executive Committee

8. Taking the above factors into account, the High Commissioner would request the Executive Committee to approve the inclusion in the 1966 UNHCR Programme of an amount of US $10,000 to meet the need of the Zanzibari refugees in Dubai. This amount would be used to provide assistance to new arrivals, to meet cases of special hardship and to cover the cost of language training in Arabic. Inclusion of this provision with the 1966 UNHCR Programme would not imply any increase in the target for that year. The amount would, instead, be met from the Reserve.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Despatched by Arabian Div'n 1/11/66

Registry No. USR 1824/28

DRAFT letter

Type 1 + /

Top Secret.
Secret.
~~Confidential.~~
Restricted.
~~Unclassified.~~

31/10

To:—

T. J. Blake, Esq.,
P. A.,
Dubai.

From
M. C. S. WESTON
Telephone No. & Ext.
Department
Arabian

c. c.
M. R. Mathuisd, Esq.,
Political Residency,
Bahrain.

Will you please refer to correspondence (I think) resting with Glen Balfour-Paul's letter 10114/66 C of 19 March to Scott in Geneva abt the Manya Arabs in Dubai?

2. I enclose a U.N. document from which you will see that the High Commissioner for Refugees is proposing to devote US $10,000 to the local settlement of these refugees. You may in fact already be aware of all this, but I was not myself until I saw this document & I am therefore sending it to you in case you are similarly in the dark.

/Provided

RECEIVED IN [illegible]VISION
31 OCT 1966
31/10/66
1/11/66

(83126) St.S.

Provided the Ruler is happy with what is proposed, it would seem unobjectionable from our point of view. Our delegation have, incidentally, been instructed to agree to the proposal but not to comment on it on the grounds that we have no responsibility for Dubai's internal affairs.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Ramsay Melhuish at the Residency.

31/10

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

RESTRICTED

B 1821
~~(USR 1821/28)~~

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1

31 October, 1966

Will you please refer to correspondence resting, I think, with Glen Balfour-Paul's letter 10114/66C of 19 March to Scott in Geneva about the Manga Arabs in Dubai?.

- - - 2. I enclose a U.N. document from which you will see that the High Commissioner for Refugees is proposing to devote US $ 10,000 to the local settlement of these refugees. You may in fact already be aware of all this, but I was not myself until I saw this document and I am therefore sending it to you in case you are similarly in the dark. Provided the Ruler is happy with what is proposed, it would seem unobjectionable from our point of view. Our delegation have, incidentally, been instructed to agree to the proposal but not to comment on it on the grounds that we have no responsibility for Dubai's internal affairs.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Ramsay Melhuish at the Residency.

(M.C.S. Weston)
Arabian Department

T.J. Clark, Esq.,
DUBAI.

RESTRICTED

US B

H.B.M. POLITICAL AGENCY,
TRUCIAL STATES,
DUBAI.

21/11

(10114/66C) 16 November, 1966.

Enter (US) B.

B 1821/7 (A)

Dear Michael,

You wrote to Terry Clark on 31 October (USR 1824/28) about Manga Arabs.

2. I put the matter to Shaikh Rashid, who incidentally does not understand the expression "Manga Arabs" at all but knew exactly what I was talking about when I said refugees from Zanzibar. He has no objection to United Nations aid being given to them. He would merely like to be kept informed of progress. I also explained the attitude of our delegation, which he duly appreciated.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Ramsay Melhuish at the Residency, Bahrain and I enclose an extra copy in case you may wish to send it to the delegation to the U.N.

Not in file
Enclosed
now

Yours ever,
Terry Clark
for (D. A. Roberts)

M. C. S. Weston, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

US
B

I.O.C. (66) 194

27 October, 1966

General Series

STEERING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

16th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES PROGRAMME

GENEVA: 31 OCTOBER - 8 NOVEMBER, 1966

(Note by the Foreign Office)

--- The attached brief has been prepared by the Foreign Office, in consultation with interested Departments. Any comments should be addressed to Mr. C.G. Mays, United Nations (Economic and Social) Department, Foreign Office (telephone: WHItehall 8440, extension 359).

Foreign Office, S.W.1

27 October, 1966

Brief for the United Kingdom Delegation to the 16th Session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Programme

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Documents:

(a) United Nations documents

A/Ac.96/337/Rev.1 Revised Provisional Agenda

A/AC.96/338 Report of the Board of Auditors on the Audit of the accounts of Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December, 1965.

A/AC.96/339 Administrative Expenditure for 1967.

A/AC.96/340 Report on the Status of Contributions to UNHCR as at 31 July, 1966.

A/AC.96/341 and Add. 1. Report on the Resettlement of Refugees.

A/AC.96/342 UNHCR Programme for 1967.

A/AC.96/343 Report on exploratory contacts concerning intensification of inter-agency co-operation.

A/AC.96/344 Note on education for refugees.

A/AC.96/345 UNHCR Programme for 1966 - New Projects.

A/AC.96/346 Proposed measures to extend the personal scope of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July, 1951.

A/AC.96/347 Note on the use of the Emergency Fund.

A/AC.96/348 Financial status of UNHCR Programmes.

A/AC.96/INF.61/Add.1 Note on an allocation from the Emergency Fund for assistance to a group of Angolan refugees in Zambia.

A/AC.96/INF.62 Note on an allocation from the Emergency Fund for assistance to a group of refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A/AC.96/INF.63 Report on the mental health of refugees in certain Latin American countries.

A/AC.96/INF.64* Summary of information on UNHCR Current Operations during the period 1 January - 31 July, 1966.

A/AC.96/INF.65 Report on Tibetan refugees in the Mustang area, Nepal.

A/AC.96/INF.65/Corr.1 Corrigendum.

A/AC.96/INF.66 Note on an allocation from the Emergency Fund for assistance to a group of refugees in Uganda.

A/AC.96/INF.67 Note on an allocation from the Emergency Fund for assistance to a group of refugees in Rwanda.

* Not yet distributed.

/(b)

(b) United Kingdom documents

IOC(65)192 Brief for the United Kingdom Delegation to the 14th Session of the Executive Committee.

IOC(66)58 Brief for the United Kingdom Delegation to the 15th Session of the Executive Committee.

IOC(66)108 Report of the United Kingdom Delegation to the 15th Session of the Executive Committee.

IOC(66)145 Brief for the United Kingdom delegation to the 21st General Assembly, concerning the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Background

The Office of the UNHCR came into existence on 1 January, 1951 in accordance with a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly. In December, 1962, the General Assembly renewed the mandate of the UNHCR for a further period of five years from 1 January, 1964 (Resolution 1783(XVII)). The work of the UNHCR is humanitarian, social and non-political in character. His basic tasks are to provide international protection for the refugees within his mandate and to seek permanent solutions to their problems by facilitating their voluntary repatriation or their assimilation in the country of asylum. Refugees within the mandate are persons who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or political opinion, are outside their country of origin and who cannot, or do not wish to, avail themselves of the protection of that country. In addition, particularly when meeting refugee situations outside Europe, the High Commissioner within the authority of the General Assembly may provide his "good offices" at the request of governments.

2. The refugees who are the concern of the High Commissioner in the relief field can be divided into three main groups: the "old" European refugees, i.e. people who were refugees before 1 January, 1961 as a result of the war or its aftermath and for whom the major aid programme of resettlement is now virtually completed; the new European refugees, who cross the Iron Curtain at the rate of some 10,000 per year; and thirdly, refugees outside Europe of whom those in Africa are absorbing about one half of the High Commissioner's current assistance programme.

3. The High Commissioner's competence, however, does not extend to the Arab refugees from Palestine, who are the concern of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA), nor to refugees who are recognised as having the rights and obligations which are attached to the nationality of the country of asylum, e.g. persons who have moved between India and Pakistan, or East Germans in the Federal Republic of Germany.

4. The Office of the UNHCR is financed under the United Nations regular budget, of which the United Kingdom's share is 7.21%. The UNHCR assistance programme, however, is financed by voluntary contributions. The UNHCR pays from these contributions a grant-in-aid to the United Nations budget in respect of the implementation of his programme. At the last session of the General

/Assembly

Assembly it was decided, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, that the grant-in-aid should be 10% of commitments under the current programme each year (instead of the lower proportion which had previously been paid under ad hoc arrangements). (In this connexion, please see provisional agenda item 13).

5. The UNHCR is required to report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. He also reports on the exercise of his functions to an Executive Committee composed of thirty members of the United Nations and Specialised Agencies, which meets each year in the spring and autumn. A list of the members of the Executive Committee, together with its terms of reference, is attached at Annex A.

6. At its 15th session in May of this year, the Executive Committee observed the continuation of the trend, mentioned in the introduction to the High Commissioner's report, for the emphasis in his assistance programme to lie increasingly in Africa. The Committee, approving a financial target of $4.2 million for 1966 (compared with $3.9 million for 1965), were also aware that contributions seemed likely to fall short of the High Commissioner's requirements by about $1 million. This is the fundamental difficulty which currently faces the High Commissioner: on the one hand rising demands on the assistance he can provide (and the increased cost of the grant-in-aid, now tied to the size of the annual programme), on the other hand a financial shortfall of undeniable proportions. The number of contributing governments rose from 52 to 57 in 1965, but despite several increases announced at the 15th Session of the Executive Committee, many contributions remain of a token nature only. (In this connexion, please see provisional agenda item 8).

7. In recognition of the unsatisfactory financial position, the last General Assembly adopted a resolution (2039(XX)), in response to the High Commissioner's previous report, inviting Member States to increase their support for him and to make available the financial means to ensure the full implementation of his programme. In keeping with this resolution, Her Majesty's Government increased their contribution to the UNHCR's programme from £100,000 to £120,000 in 1966. (In addition, they made special payments to the UNHCR in respect of purchase tax on the sale of his two fund-raising gramophone records).

Policy

8. Since the war Her Majesty's Government have made successive and generous financial contributions to International Organisations charged with refugee resettlement. But we have always taken the view that refugees should not become permanent pensioners of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and that responsibility for resettling refugees should at some stage pass from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the host Government. Although the "old" European refugee problems are now nearing completion, other refugee problems have emerged, the more serious of which are in Africa. Her Majesty's Government will continue to help these unfortunate people in accordance with the United Kingdom's humanitarian traditions.

/General

General Instructions to the United Kingdom Delegation

9. Although we do not hesitate to criticise either the proposals or the management of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, our criticism should not give the impression that Her Majesty's Government are less concerned about the settlement of refugees than other Governments, nor that they favour refugees in one area rather than another. Our policies and criticisms arise from a careful study of the problems facing refugees and from the conviction that any counter proposals we make are in the refugees' best interests. It is for example important for them to become integrated with the community in which they find themselves; they should not be regarded by host countries as permanent lodgers for whom they have no responsibility. It is for this reason that we would oppose any tendency of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to involve himself in elaborate development programmes which more properly fall within the terms of reference of other United Nations bodies. There are also clear political reasons for not allowing refugees to feel themselves abandoned. This applies with particular force in the less developed countries, where discontented refugees can so easily be exploited for political ends in circumstances where peace and security (whether international or domestic) may already be threatened.

10. In discussing the resettlement of refugees the United Kingdom Delegation should make clear that, apart from compassionate cases which might be admitted to the United Kingdom under normal immigration procedure, or persons who can obtain Ministry of Labour permits in the normal way,Her Majesty's Government are unable to accept further groups of refugees for permanent residence. (We have in fact accepted something like a quarter of a million refugees in the last thirty years). If the point is raised, the Delegation should remind the Committee that Great Britain is an overcrowded island to which, in the nature of things, the grant to foreigners of admission for permanent residence must be strictly limited. Indeed the situation has been reached where control of immigration from Commonwealth countries as distinct from foreign countries, has had to be accepted.

11. This is not to say that the United Kingdom is indifferent to the problem of resettlement of refugees. Both the Government and the people of the United Kingdom have already given generous financial assistance to resettlement projects; and a number of operations have been carried out for the admission of handicapped refugees who found it impossible to secure admission to normal immigration countries because of the nature of their handicap.

12. The United Kingdom Delegation, in cooperation with other friendly delegations, should do their best to secure a harmonious atmosphere on questions which tend to involve the Committee in political controversy. The paragraphs which follow contain instructions on points of detail.

13. In April, 1966 the High Commissioner announced the appointment of Mr. Albert J. Bender, Jr., as Deputy High Commissioner from 1 October. Mr. Bender will therefore be attending the Executive Committee for the first time in this capacity and the Delegation should take a suitable occasion early in the session to congratulate him on his appointment and to extend good wishes to him on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Bender was Senior Adviser on Legal and International Organisation Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York. He has also served on the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions since 1960 and has been a member of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board since 1961, until his resignation from both bodies upon his present appointment.

/Biographical

Biographical details concerning Mr. Bender are attached at Annex B to the brief.

Provisional agenda item 1: Adoption of the Agenda (A/AC.96/337/Rev.

14. We have no comment on the Agenda. The Delegation may support its adoption.

Provisional agenda item 2: Introductory statement by the High Commissioner

15. It is possible that the High Commissioner may refer to the question of compensation for victims of Nazi persecution. This is a matter which he has been pursuing for some time with the Federal German Government, particularly during and after his visit to Bonn in July, when he saw President Lübke, the German Foreign Minister and other Ministers. Following this visit, the Federal Government have made an offer to set up a new fund to compensate persecutees who suffered less than 25% permanent damage to health and either ceased to be refugees before 1 October, 1953 (the date of the signature of the Bonn Settlement Convention) or became refugees only after that date. The German Final Indemnification Law of 1965 provided compensation for the same categories who had suffered 25% or more permanent damage to health. Details of the proposed new fund are being discussed confidentially between the Federal Government and the High Commissioner and the latter may be able to report progress to the Executive Committee.

16. If the High Commissioner does mention this matter, it may be appropriate for the Delegation, in the course of any remarks made in the discussion following the statement, to refer briefly to it in the following terms. Her Majesty's Government welcome the progress which has been achieved in the discussions between the High Commissioner and the Federal German Government. [If he has said anything about further discussions:] They note what the High Commissioner has said about further discussions on outstanding matters and trust that further progress towards an equitable solution will be possible. They hope very much that a full and equitable measure of compensation can be given to those who suffered under the Nazi régime.

17. If the High Commissioner does not mention this matter, however, the Delegation should not raise it. Her Majesty's Government have no formal standing in this question, which lies within the competence of the High Commissioner. (As the latter knows, however, it is our policy to give him such informal support as we properly can and as will not prove counter-productive). Her Majesty's Government would not wish to say or do anything which would complicate the situation.

/Provisional

Provisional Agenda Item 3: International Protection - Proposed measures to extend the personal scope of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July, 1951 (A/AC.96/346)

18. The High Commissioner's report submits for approval by the Committee the revised text of a draft Protocol to extend the personal scope of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The text is at Annex II to the report. The procedure proposed following approval by the Committee is described in paragraph 27 of the report.

19. The United Kingdom agrees in principle with the purpose of the proposed Protocol which, by removing the dateline of 1 January, 1951 from the Convention, would generally strengthen the position of the High Commissioner in his work for refugees and strengthen the rights of the latter to legal protection. By the time the Executive Committee's 16th session begins, a formal communication in writing will have been made to the High Commissioner by the Mission in Geneva informing him of the United Kingdom position, in reply to his circular letter of 13 October, 1965 which enclosed a first draft of the proposed Protocol. The High Commissioner may therefore circulate an addendum to his report, including the United Kingdom among the countries listed in its Annex I as having replied to his circular letter. In any event, however, the Delegation should take a suitable opportunity during the discussion of this matter in the Executive Committee to repeat the substance of the United Kingdom reply, the terms of which will be obtainable from the Mission in Geneva.

20. Although we agree with the basic purpose of the proposed Protocol, we have wished to secure amendments to the first two drafts circulated. (The present draft is the third one known to us.) The possible amendments which we have considered have fallen under three headings:

(a) drafting points:

(b) the desirability, in our view, of the Protocol not allowing states which accede to it to be able to reserve their position regarding reference to the International Court of any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of the Protocol. This means, in effect, bringing the Protocol into line with the Convention on this point;

(c) the important question, for the United Kingdom, of territorial application. The drafts of the Protocol which have been circulated so far have not included a territorial application clause because the High Commissioner expects thereby to secure wider support for the text (as he says explicitly in paragraph 15 of his report). The absence of such a clause, however, presents difficulty to us, because the Convention (which does contain a territorial application clause) has been extended to only some of our dependent territories and because even among those

/territories

territories to which the Convention has been extended there may be some which could not agree to the application of the proposed Protocol to them. (For the Delegation's own information, the territories which are likely to have particular difficulty in the latter connexion are Swaziland, Turks and Cdicos Islands and Cayman Islands.) If there were nothing in the Protocol to permit separate territorial application and the United Kingdom were to become a party to it, the extent of its application, would not be entirely clear, but it would probably fall to be regarded as applying to at least all those United Kingdom dependent territories to which the Convention has been extended and possibly also (although this is less likely) to all our other dependent territories as well. The absence of a provision permitting separate territorial application might therefore prevent us, because of the need to have regard to the wishes of the dependent territories, from becoming a party to the Protocol. Our position on this question has been explained very recently to the High Commissioner by the Mission in Geneva and a form of words which would meet our difficulty has been suggested to him. It is possible that he may be able to accept our suggestion, or to adopt an equivalent alternative, and will circulate an amendment accordingly to the text in Annex II to his present report.

21. The Mission in Geneva have reported that the High Commissioner's Office hope the Executive Committee will merely take note of the present text of the proposed Protocol and remit it to the resumed session of ECOSOC, which is expected to begin on 14 November. We are not able to agree to this, however, without making clear the United Kingdom position, although we do not wish to press in the Executive Committee for amendments under (a) and (b) above. These are relatively minor issues compared with (c), which is a point of real difficulty for us.

22. If the High Commissioner is unable to meet us on the question of territorial application by the time discussion starts in the Executive Committee, which seems likely, and he wishes nevertheless to secure the Committee's endorsement of the present text, the Delegation should speak on the following lines, having first informed the High Commissioner that, in the circumstances, they will have to make such a statement: Her Majesty's Government agree with the basic purpose of the Protocol; the question of whether they could accept the text in its present form raises serious difficulties for them, having regard to the position of the dependent territories; this question is under discussion with the High Commissioner.

23. If the Committee is asked formally to endorse the present text, the Delegation should vote in favour but should make clear at the same time that the approval of the United Kingdom is subject to a reservation on the particular question to which they have previously referred.

/In

(In certain circumstances, the use of the term "territorial application clause" may risk emotional reactions from representatives of countries which generally take a vociferous anti-colonialist line at international meetings. In the interests of keeping the discussion in the Committee as objective and as unpolitical as possible, the Delegation should avoid using the term more than is necessary to make clear the United Kingdom position described above.)

24. As may be apparent, our preferred way of trying to secure amendments to the draft of the proposed Protocol is by direct discussion with the High Commissioner. The delegation have discretion, however, to support any move which may be made at the Executive Committee to refer the draft to a working group for detailed discussion of possible amendments, if this procedure seems likely in the circumstances to be advantageous. In the event of such a procedure being adopted, the delegation should report immediately to the Department, who will send further instructions and suggestions for possible amendments.

Provisional Agenda Item 4: Resettlement of refugees (A/AC.96/341/ and Add. 1)

25. There is little the Delegation need say in discussion of this report, although they may as appropriate commend the High Commissioner on the progress which it shows is being achieved under difficult circumstances.

26. Much of the High Commissioner's report is concerned with the resettlement of handicapped refugees. The United Kingdom position in this is outlined in the brief for the 14th Session of the Executive Committee (IOC(65)192, please see paragraphs 57-59), which should be read with the brief for the 15th Session of the Committee (IOC(66)58, paragraph 16) and paragraphs 9 to 11 above. At the latter meeting, the Delegation made the announcement, in accordance with the brief, regarding unfilled places in the United Kingdom being taken up by up to five White Russian handicapped refugees from Hong Kong. Negotiations in this connexion are still in progress. While unfilled places remain out of Her Majesty's Government's offer to accept eight handicapped refugees, the Delegation should give no commitment that the offer will be extended to include a further fifteen, as suggested in paragraph 41 of the report.

27. With regard to the passages in the report concerning Hong Kong and resettlement counselling, the Delegation should be guided by the relevant paragraphs of the present brief for provisional agenda item 11. The Delegation should also recall, with reference to the mention in paragraph 21 of the report of discussions with the Hong Kong authorities about local integration, that the latter have not committed themselves to accepting stranded refugees for permanent settlement in the Colony.

Provisional Agenda Item 5: Note on the use of the Emergency Fund (A/AC.96/347, A/Ac.96/INF. 60, 61, 61/Add. 1, 62 and 66)

28. This is likely to be a largely formal item. The High Commissioner is seeking the approval of the Executive Committee ex post facto for the use he has made of the Emergency Fund since the Committee's last meeting. He may bring up to date the reports given in the reference documents, but there is unlikely to be much discussion.

29. If appropriate, however, the Delegation may say that while the continued occurrence of emergency situations (which in 1966 caused higher expenditure from the Emergency Fund than in previous recent years) is naturally regretted, the High Commissioner is to be commended on the measures he has taken to meet them and the promptness and flexibility which he has displayed.

Provisional agenda item 6: Financial Statements and report of the Board of Auditors on the audit of the accounts for 1965 (A/AC.96/338)

30. We have no comment. The Delegation may support the adoption of the Board's report, welcoming the Board's statement to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that it was satisfied with the present state of affairs of the High Commissioner's Office (Annex I to A/AC.96/338).

Provisional Agenda Item 7: Financial Status of UNHCR programmes (A/AC.96/348)

31. The High Commissioner's report shows clearly the tightness of the financial situation in which his Office is having to operate (regarding the current programme in particular, please see his paragraph 7).

32. In discussion of the report, the Delegation may express concern at the continuation of this general position and the problems which it adds to the burden of the High Commissioner. The Delegation should express the hope that there will be a noticeable alleviation as a result of the special attention which is being focussed this year on refugees, in consequence of the resolutions of the 20th General Assembly which the High Commissioner brought to the Committee's attention at its last meeting in document A/AC.96/318. While the Delegation should mention if appropriate the increase in Her Majesty's Government's contribution in 1966 to the High Commissioner's current assistance programme (paragraph 7 above) no commitment should be given, or implied, regarding the level of their contribution in 1967.

/Provisional Agenda Item 8

Provisional Agenda Item 8: Status of contributions (A/AC.96/340)

33. The status of contributions as at 31 July gives ground for concern. In discussion of the High Commissioner's Report, the delegation should be guided by the preceding paragraph in the brief.

Provisional Agenda Item 9: Inter-Agency Cooperation (A/AC.96/343)

34. This item derives from the decision of the Executive Committee recorded in paragraphs 34 and 38(5) of the report on its 15th Session A/AC.96/334). The High Commissioner's Report informs the Committee of general observations and guide-lines, which follow his exploratory discussions with other United Nations bodies, and states that the matter will be studied further.

35. The delegation should welcome the report, as an interim general statement, and the spirit of cooperation to which it bears witness. They should also express general agreement with the guide-lines set out in paragraph 8 of the report and hope that further contacts with the Specialised Agencies will l ad to concrete results. They may join in agreeing that the matter should be considered again when further progress has been made.

Provisional Agenda Item 10: UNHCR Programme for 1966 - new projects (A/AC.96/345 and A/AC.96/INF. 64

36. The delegation may agree to, but need not comment on, the High Commissioner's proposal to include in the 1966 programme the amount of $10,000 to meet the need of Zanzibari refugees in Dubai (A/AC. 96/345). If necessary, however, the Delegation should make clear that Her Majesty's Government are in no way responsible for the internal affairs of Dubai, which is an independent state in special treaty relationship with the United Kingdom. Her Majesty's Government are responsible only for the conduct of Dubai's external affairs and defence.

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Provisional agenda item 11: UNHCR programme for 1967 (A/AC.96/342 and A/AC.96/INF 63, 64 and 65).

37. It will be noted from the summary of allocations under the proposed programme for 1967, on page 1 of A/AC.96/342, that the overall total of $4,133,730 for 1967 is not far from that of $4,168,560 which was approved for 1966. Although the 1967 figure includes some increases in allocations for areas outside Europe and, as explained in document A/AC.96/339 (provisional item 13 of the agenda), a new allocation towards the grant-in-aid, there have been compensating reductions, particularly in allocations to European countries. It should also be noted that the total mentioned above for 1966 includes an increase of $675,360 approved at the 15th Session of the Executive Committee. It remains to be seen what additional requirements for 1967 will arise between now and the 17th Session of the Committee (following the High Commissioner's remarks in paragraph (xvii) on page 6 of his report). The 1967 total, however, does provide for a reserve amounting to $200,000 (5% of the programme) to cover increases which may be necessary to ensure that the tasks under the programme can be carried out.

38. The Delegation have discretion to support the main lines of the proposed programme for 1967, subject to any reasonable amendments which may result from discussion in the Executive Committee. The Delegation may also draw on the following general comments as appropriate.

39. The High Commissioner is to be commended on the efforts which he and his office are making, particularly in the face of new difficulties in Africa. The progress in cooperation with other United Nations bodies in dealing with current problems is to be welcomed and encouraged (sub-paragraph (vi) on page 3 of the report). (This is also the subject of provisional agenda item 9 and document A/AC.96/343). Although the predominant emphasis is now on refugee situations in Africa, we note and welcome the High Commissioner's continued concern with the remaining problems in Europe (paragraphs (x), (xi) and (xii) on pages 4 - 5 of the report). The same applied to the High Commissioner's concern for the refugees in Latin America and the problems of mental health and the aged (Section XI of his report); the number of the refugees concerned and the size of the proposed allocation of funds are both relatively small, but the High Commissioner's Office are far from overlooking the problems and are making reasonable and sympathetic provisions to deal with them. The transfer of administrative matters to local bodies in Europe is a sensible rationalisation at the present stage (but too much should not be made of this point, since part of the result has been to increase the financial cost borne by the Governments concerned and the French, at least, are believed to have indicated some reluctance to agree to the new arrangements). We also note and welcome the High Commissioner's concern for counselling services (paragraph (xv) on page 5 of the report). We can agree that the matter should be considered again fully at the next meeting of the Committee, as the High Commissioner proposes. In the meantime, we trust that the High Commissioner will continue to be guided by the appropriate decision of the Committee at its 14th Session, which, while stressing the part to be played by the host Governments, requested the High Commissioner "to maintain a flexible approach" and "to ensure that sufficient funds were allocated within the programme to provide benefits and services for those refugees who did not receive the necessary counselling services from local authorities"

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(paragraph 103 of the report on proceedings, A/AC.96/313). One example of the flexibility which the High Commissioner has shown in this connexion is given in paragraph 173 of his report, on counselling for refugees in Belgium.

40. In Section VI of his report, the High Commissioner deals with the refugee situation in Hong Kong. The newarrangements for the Joint UNHCR/ICEM Office, mentioned in paragraph 31 of the report, were agreed between Her Majesty's Government and the two organisations in August. The delegation should not need to comment on this or other matters dealt with in Section VI, but if the Chinese Nationalist Delegation seek to promote political discussion of the refugees in Hong Kong, or conditions in mainland China, the United Kingdom Delegation should seek to keep such discussion to a minimum and in as low a key as they can. Guidance for this eventuality is given in paragraph 20 of the brief for the United Kingdom Delegation to the 21st General Assembly (IOC(66)145) and in paragraphs 27 - 29 of the brief for the 19th General Assembly (IOC(65)12).

41. With regard to Section XX of the report, concerning Zambia, for the convenience of the United Kingdom Delegate copies are attached to the top copy of this brief of the reports and budget submissions prepared by the UNHCR representative on the spot, Mr. Nielsen, concerning the projects at Nyimba and Lwatembo. These reports and budget submissions have been made available on a confidential basis and should not be referred to directly in any discussion of these projects. They may be useful to the United Kingdom Delegate, however, as additional background material to that given in Section XX.

Provisional agenda Item 12: educational assistance to refugees (A/AC.96/344)

42. In discussion of the High Commissioner's report and his proposal to set up an education fund, outside the current programme, to be financed by voluntary contributions, the delegation should make the following points as appropriate:

(a) the need for refugees to receive education, particularly primary education, is basic and is accepted by Her Majesty's Government;

(b) Her Majesty's Government are in principle in favour of the High Commissioner acting within his Mandate to help meet this need;

(c) they agree with the principle stated in the report that the primary responsibility should remain with the host government and that the High Commissioner's assistance through the proposed fund would be essentially complementary and, regarding the establishment of schools at least, of an interim nature (paragraphs 3, 12 and 13 of the report);

(d) they also welcome the confirmation in the High Commissioner's Report that a fund as proposed would be used in cooperation with UNESCO as appropriate and that duplication or overlapping with other agencies concerned would be avoided;

(e) regarding the question of co-ordination between the educational programmes of the United Nations headquarters and of the High Commissioner (paragraph 8

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of the report), they would agree in principle that such co-ordination would be desirable, but should prefer to see first how the High Commissioner's programme develops under the proposed new fund before commenting further, or having to agree to specific arrangements for such co-ordination. (The Delegation should know that the Swedish Foreign Minister, Mr. Astrom, suggested to Lord Caradon in August that if the educational programmes for South Africans, South West Africans and refugees from Portuguese territories in Africa were merged, it might be desirable for the High Commissioner's Office to take on the administration of the merged programme and of all educational programmes in Africa under the general umbrella of the proposed Education Fund. We have reservations about this and if the idea is put forward at the Executive Committee the Delegation should try to gather support to discourage its being pressed, at least at this stage. Such a merger would present difficulties because the programmes for persons from the three areas in Africa are financed from the United Nations regular budget, based on assessed contributions, whereas the proposed Education Fund would be financed from strictly voluntary contributions. Moreover, there would be objections to regarding the South African programme, for example, as one solely for refugees. This programme and the other existing programmes are also strongly political in character and we should not wish to see the High Commissioner becoming involved in political controversy for the sake of the administrative attractions of merging all these programmes with the new one under the proposed fund. In any case, we consider that the High Commissioner should not take on at present the extra burden of running a merged educational programme; he will have enough problems running and trying to find the money for his existing assistance programmes and an educational programme under the proposed new fund).

(f) Her Majesty's Government trust that the High Commissioner will continue to proceed with caution in his proposed new venture;

(g) they trust that projects to be started under the proposed new fund will be financed entirely from it, so that no funds are diverted from the High Commissioner's other programmes;

(h) they also hope that the creation of the new fund will not lead to a reduction of governmental and other contributions to the current programme, where, as is well known, the financial shortfall is of serious proportions.

43. If the general sentiment of the Executive Committee is in favour of the High Commissioner's proposed fund, the Delegation have discretion to support it. If, however, sufficient reservations or objections are made to warrant further study before the proposal is finally adopted by the Committee, the Delegation may agree to the matter being deferred pending further examination of the implications. In so doing, the Delegation should

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make clear that Her Majesty's Government are not approaching the question in any negative spirit, but consider that the best way to ensure the success of any scheme as proposed is to start it on the most realistic basis possible.

Provisional agenda Item 13: Administrative expenditure for 1967 (A/AC.96/339)

44. The High Commissioner's report explains why part of the grant-in-aid to the United Nations budget will have to be found next year from income for his current assistance programme.

45. The delegation need not comment, but should know with regard to Annex I of the report that the United Kingdom Delegation to the 21st Session of the General Assembly has been instructed to support the reduction which has been recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the section of the United Nations regular budget concerning the office of the High Commissioner (paragraph 66 of the brief (IOC(66)162).

46. The report A/AC.96/INF.64, summarising information on current operations in the first seven months of 1966, is not yet available.

Provisional agenda Item 14: any other business

47. We have no additional items to suggest, but the Delegation may find the following guidance useful under this item, or elsewhere in the agenda.

The position of Haitian refugees in the Bahamas

48. The previous High Commissioner took an interest in this question and a report on it was given to him last year in confidence by the Mission in Geneva. A copy of the report, on which the Delegation may draw if necessary, is attached and may confirm if asked, that arrangements have been agreed in principle for the High Commissioner's representative in New York, Dr. Urrutia, to visit the Bahamas to see the position at first hand. No date for the visit, however, has yet been arranged.

European Agreement on the abolition of visas for refugees

49. The Delegation should be aware of the United Kingdom attitude to this Agreement, although it is unlikely that they will have to comment on it. The United Kingdom is not a party to the European Agreement of 21 April, 1959, providing for the exemption from visa requirements of refugees lawfully residing in the territories of other member states of the Council of Europe, because the retention of entry visas for refugees is deemed necessary for the proper control of aliens to the United Kingdom, as exercised under the Aliens Orders. (Apart from security considerations, our opposition to becoming a party to the Agreement is on the grounds of the limited returnability of refugee travel documents and the very different application of the criteria for according refugee status in most European countries). Nevertheless, British Visa Offices in Western Europe have a wide discretion to grant visas without reference to London in straightforward cases and certain stateless persons who visit the United Kingdom receive continuous visas valid for any number of journeys in a period of six months. Until recently British Visa Offices have also had authority, in cases

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of destitution, to waive fees chargeable to refugees and to grant gratis visas to refugees seeking to come to the United Kingdom, under the auspices of British refugee organisations, for recreational and educational purposes. Her Majesty's Government decided earlier this year, however, to waive fees for visas to the United Kingdom granted in Council of Europe countries to the holders of refugee documents issued by the authorities of any of these countries. The Delegation informed the Committee of this decision at its 15th Session.

ANNEX A

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES' PROGRAMME

The following States members of the United Nations or of the United Nations Specialised Agencies are represented on the Executive Committee:

Algeria*	Italy
Australia	Lebanon*
Austria	Madagascar*
Belgium	Netherlands
Brazil	Nigeria*
Canada	Norway
China(Nationalist)	Sweden
Colombia	Switzerland
Denmark	Tanzania*
Germany(Federal Republic)	Tunisia
France	Turkey
Greece	United Kingdom
Holy See	United States
Iran	Venezuela
Israel	Yugoslavia

The terms of reference of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme are set out in General Assembly Resolution 1166(XII) as follows:-

(a) To advise the High Commissioner, at his request, in the exercise of his functions under the Statute of his Office;

(b) to advise the High Commissioner as to whether it is appropriate for international assistance to be provided through his Office in order to help solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December, 1958, or arising after that date;

(c) to authorise the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds to enable him to solve the problems referred to in sub-paragraph (b) above;

(d)

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* Elected to the Committee in 1964 by the Economic and Social Council following General Assembly Resolution 1958 (XVIII) which expanded the Committee from twenty-five to thirty members.

(d) to approve projects for assistance to refugees coming within the scope of sub-paragraph (b) above;

(e) to give directives to the High Commissioner for the use of the emergency fund established under Resolution 1166 (XII)

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ANNEX B

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

INFORMATION CENTRE

from the United Kingdom, the United States and the Caribbean

14-15 STRATFORD PLACE,
LONDON, W.1.

Telephone:
MAYfair 3816

PR/66/12 (FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA - NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD) 27 April 1966

ALBERT F. BENDER, JR., APPOINTED DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, has announced the appointment of Albert F. Bender, Jr., to the post of Deputy High Commissioner. Mr Bender will assume his duties on 1 October 1966.

A member of United States delegations to the General Assembly since 1948, Mr Bender is at present Senior Adviser on Legal and International Organisation Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York. He has served on the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions since 1960 and has been a member of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board since 1961.

In a statement announcing the appointment, the High Commissioner said: " I am very happy that the Government of the United States has made available to our office such a distinguished public servant. With the many new refugee problems needing increasing attention and support from the international community, it is gratifying to know that we shall have in the new Deputy High Commissioner a man of great experience not only in international cooperation but also in United Nations programmes and administrative problems."

In a letter to the High Commissioner accepting his appointment, Mr Bender said: " I warmly welcome this opportunity to join you and your colleagues in serving the very important humanitarian cause of the refugees."

Biographical Note

Mr Bender was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on 5 July 1914, and received his A.B. from Princeton University in 1935 and his LL.B from the Columbia Law School in 1938. He was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1939.

Mr Bender was associated with a private law firm from 1938 to 1942, and in 1942 entered the service of the United States Government as an attorney in the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice. He served with the United States Army from 1943 to 1945. He was assigned to and became Chief of the External Assets and Intelligence Branch, and later Executive Officer of the Finance Division, Office of Military Government of the United States (OMGUS), from 1945 to 1948. From 1947 to 1948, he was also United States member of the German External Property Commission.

Mr Bender, who is married to the former Virginia R. Small and has four daughters, resides in Chappaqua, New York.

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ANNEX C

ILLEGAL HAITIAN EMIGRANTS IN THE BAHAMAS

Background

The Bahamas comprise a group of 14 islands and many small cays and rocks, mostly uninhabited - some 3,000 in all - extending over 500 miles South-East from Florida and scattered over an area of 4,404 square miles. The population of the territory is 134,000 and about half of this number live on the island of New Providence on which the capital, Nassau, is situated. The territory is poor in agricultural resources and derives its income principally from tourism which is now bringing over half a million visitors to the islands annually. Not only is New Providence island benefiting from the boom but the Out Islands have markedly increased their share of tourists in recent years.

The Problem of Illegal Emigrants

The very great majority of Haitian emigrants to the Bahamas enter the Colony illegally because passports, British visas and authenticated health certificates, let alone cash, are often difficult to obtain. On arrival, most illegal emigrants hide out in the woods in the remoter parts of New Providence and on the outlying islands. The difficulty in tracking down illegal emigrants is enormous because of the nature of the territory and the fact that the police simply do not have the resources for making large scale searches. Those illegal emigrants who are apprehended by coastal patrols and land searches are brought before the courts.

There is reliable evidence that Haitian illegal emigrants have been responsible for introducing tropical diseases previously rare in the Bahamas, for example there is among them a high incidence of venereal disease of a particularly resistant strain. Again, many suffer from tuberculosis and are suspected of having come to the Bahamas to obtain free treatment which they could not expect to receive in their own country.

Numbers Involved

The 1963 census in the Bahamas Islands recorded a total of 4,170 Haitians as living in the territory. Since illegal emigrants will go to great lengths to avoid the authorities for fear of arrest and do not usually wish to be counted for any purpose it may be accepted that the 1963 census figure does not give a reliable indication of the number of Haitians now in the Bahamas. It is in fact impossible to give an accurate figure. The Roman Catholic Church has estimated the Haitian population to be of the order of 12,000. The Bahamas Government regard this figure as conservative and consider that 14,000 is nearer the mark - i.e. equivalent to 10% of the population.

Of the estimated 14,000 Haitians in the Bahamas only 0.66% have claimed political asylum and of these probably not more than half have had genuine and justifiable grounds for their claims. But here again precise figures cannot be given because many of those who ask for asylum initially, disappear while their cases are being investigated.

/Claims for Asylum

Claims for Asylum

A Haitian wishing to claim political asylum has the opportunity to do so when he is first questioned by the police and/or when his case comes before the courts. The claim is investigated locally and the information supplied by the emigrant is forwarded to the British Embassy at Port au Prince for verification. While there are considerable difficulties involved in checking a claimant's story in Haiti, it is often possible to establish whether he has a genuine claim or not. In any case where there is doubt, the applicant is allowed to remain on a short term permit which is renewed as necessary until his claim can be decided. There are some who have been in the Bahamas under this arrangement for many years.

Cases in which Asylum is not granted or where it is not claimed

For proven illegal immigrants the usual sentence is one year's imprisonment unless earlier deportation is ordered. Deportation or repatriation is by sea to the Haitian port of Gonaives and the British Embassy at Port au Prince is advised in order that they may inform the Haitian authorities. Clearance is also obtained for each group of persons being repatriated from the Haitian Consul General in Nassau.

Conclusion

In its present state of development, the Bahamas can give employment to a certain number of immigrants. However the Bahamas is also a small territory with only 134,000 inhabitants and meagre agricultural resources and it cannot be expected to absorb 14,000 non-English speaking illegal emigrants the very great majority of whom have entered the territory to escape not political persecution but the economic conditions in their own country. The Bahamas Government has sought without success the assistance of the Haitian Government in stopping this traffic. Meanwhile in the very difficult situation described in the foregoing paragraphs the Government of the Bahamas is acting with correctness and humanity.

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